



ITHACA'S

Guide to Good Shotgunning

Every time a gun is picked up,

remember one thing: IT'S LOADED!

And it *is* . . . until you've made sure it's *not*.

The first thing you do is check the chamber *and the magazine* for the presence of shells or cartridges. The record book on shooting accidents is peppered with tragic incidents in which someone checked the chamber, saw it was clear, closed the action—and *loaded the gun*.

If it's someone else who picks up the gun, be sure that *he* checks. A person worthy of handling a gun will not need to be told—he will do it automatically. A person who omits this fundamental precaution *does* need to be told, even if it means losing his friendship. That's better than losing life or limb.

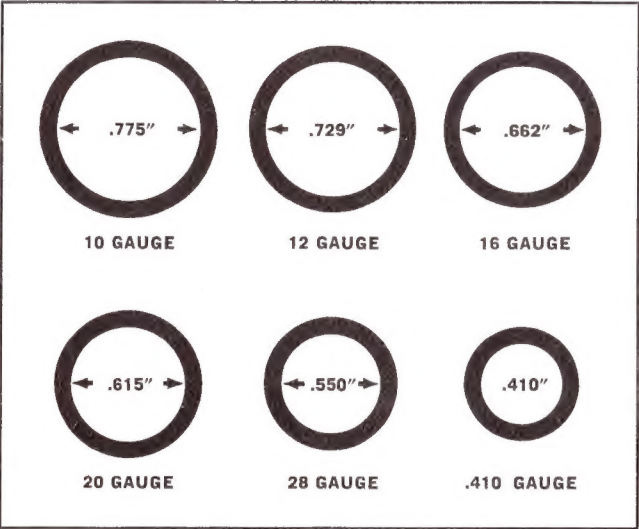
First, last and always, treat *any* gun as if it were loaded, even when you feel sure it is empty. *Keep* it empty until ready to shoot. And *always* keep it out of the reach of small children.

10 COMMANDMENTS OF SAFETY

1. *Treat every gun with the respect due a loaded gun.*
This is the cardinal rule of gun safety.
2. *Carry only empty guns—taken down or with the action open—into automobile, camp or home.*
3. *Always be sure barrel and action are clear of obstructions, and that you have only ammunition of the proper size for the gun you are carrying.*
4. *Always carry your gun so that you can control the direction of the muzzle, even if you stumble.*
Keep safety on until you are ready to shoot.
5. *Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger.*
6. *Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot—whether loaded or empty.*
7. *Never leave your gun unattended unless you unload it first.* Store guns and ammunition separately beyond reach of children or careless adults.
8. *Never climb a tree or fence or jump a ditch with a loaded gun.* Never pull gun to you by muzzle.
9. *Never shoot at a flat, hard surface or the surface of water.*
10. *Avoid alcoholic drinks before or during shooting.*

GAUGE

“Gauge” is a holdover from the earliest days of scattergunning: It was much easier (and more accurate) to measure the weight of lead spheres than the internal diameter of a barrel. The gauge number denoted the number of lead balls in a pound: a 10 gauge barrel would pass a 1/10th-pound ball; a 12 gauge barrel would pass the smaller 1/12th-pound ball . . . and so on, through 16, 20 and 28 gauge barrels. The latest to appear on the scene is the .410 “gauge”—actually a caliber of 410/1000 of an inch. Inch equivalents are given for all legal bores in the chart at right.



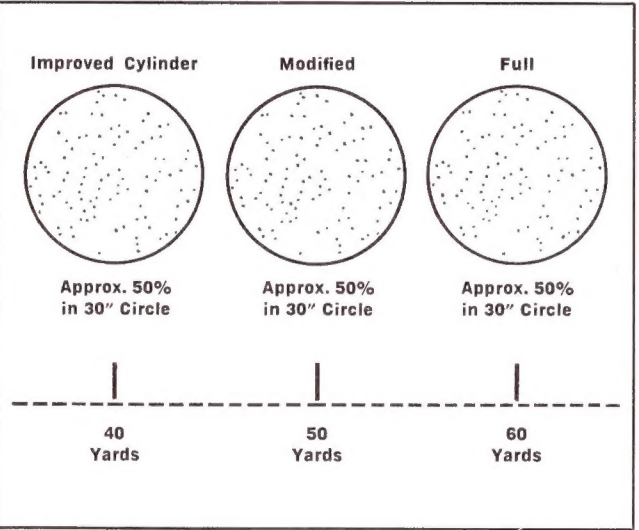
SHOT SIZES

Starting shooters often make the mistake of using shot sizes that are too large for small game—and vice versa. There is no point in blasting apart a woodcock with No. 4’s. And there is no point in merely wounding or maiming a goose with No. 8’s. The chart at right gives the size or range of sizes suitable for the most popular types of hunting and shooting.

RECOMMENDED SHOT SIZES		
Target	Shot Size	Load
Duck (Pass)	4, 5, 6	Heavy
Duck (Decoy)	5, 6, 7½	Medium
Goose	2, 4	Heavy
Grouse	7½, 8	Medium
Pheasant	6	Medium
Quail	8, 9	Light
Dove	7½, 8	Medium
Snipe	9	Light
Woodcock	9	Light
Fox	2	Heavy
Wild Turkey	2	Heavy
Squirrel	6	Medium
Rabbit	6, 7½, 8	Light
Deer	0 Buckshot, Rifled Slug	
Prairie Chicken	6, 7½	Medium
Trap Shooting	7½, 8	Medium
Skeet Shooting	9	Light

CHOKE

Choke is a built-in constriction, or diminishing of diameter, at the muzzle of the shotgun. Varying degrees of choke are designed to deliver the greatest possible number of shot pellets in a pattern of prescribed diameter and density at a given range. The effect of varying degrees of choke is diagrammed at right.



PATTERNS

The shooter who spends a few hours patterning his shotgun will reap rewards for the rest of his life. All he needs are a variety of shot loads, several large squares of paper, and a safe place to pin them up. The arbitrary standard distance is 40 yards. However, since 90% of all game is taken at shorter distances, patterns should be shot at 10, 20 and 30 yards also. (The results come as a surprise to many shooters, and explain why they have been missing ‘easy’ shots at very short range—before shot has spread to a covering pattern.) After each shot, inscribe a 30” circle to enclose the *greatest number* of shot holes on the paper. Count the number of holes within the circle, and *divide* it by the number of shot in the charge (given in chart below.) The result is the percentage at that range: The arbitrary 40 yard range tells you whether you have a “70% gun” (Full Choke), or one of lesser pattern density (Modified or Improved Cylinder Choke.)

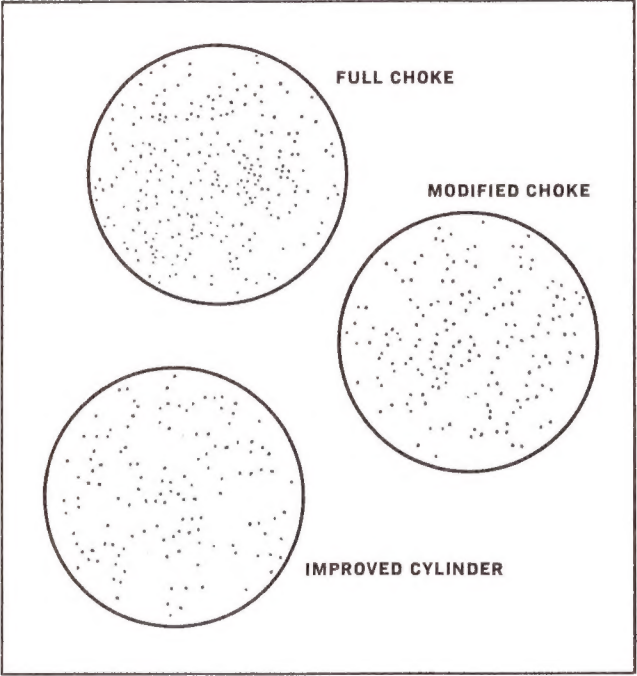
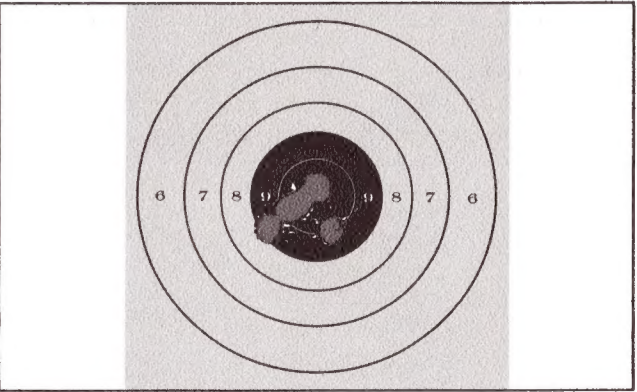


TABLE OF SHOT SIZES

Size	9	8	7½	6	5	4	2	BB
	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Diameter	.08	.09	.095	.11	.12	.13	.15	.18
Number of Shot to the Ounce (Average)	585	409	350	224	171	136	89	50

RIFLED SLUGS

A shotgun bored for conventional field use may or may not be a fairly accurate rifled-slug gun. Groups fired from rest at 40 yards will determine this. However, a gun with barrel specially bored for slugs and equipped with rifle sights will give far greater and more consistent accuracy. Of such guns, the Ithaca DEERSLAYER® has earned the reputation of world’s most accurate slug-shooter. A typical DEER-SLAYER 40-yard group—five slugs in a 1¾-inch group—is shown at right.



SHOOTING

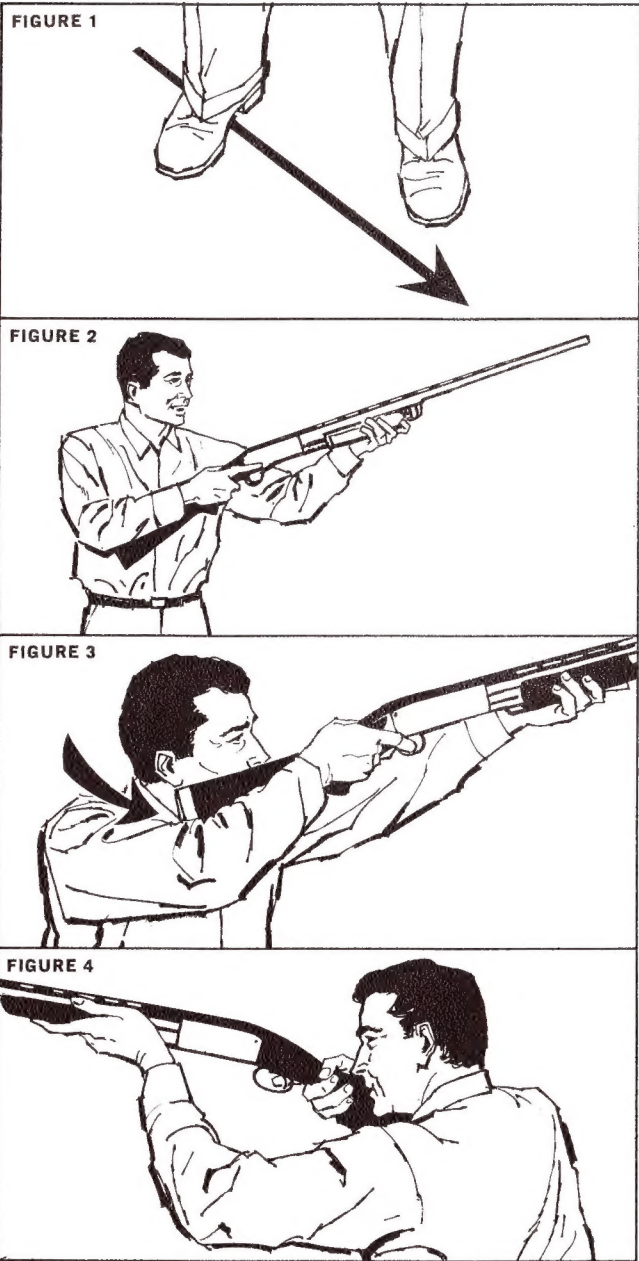
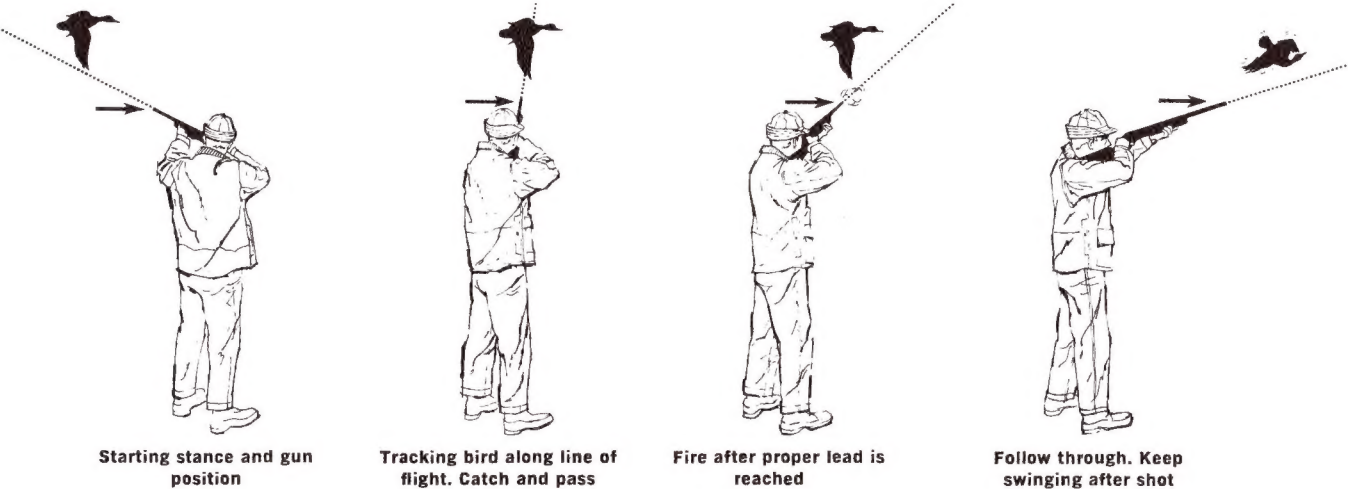
(NOTE: The following instructions are for right shoulder shooters. Simply reverse them for left shoulder.)

GETTING SET: Know where your target is, and judge where it will be when you want to pull the trigger. It is usually (though not always) possible to face the target squarely, so that the left foot points at the spot where you intend to fire. Figure 1 shows the correct alignment of feet and gun for quarry approaching from the left. Note that the feet are slightly parted for good balance, with the left foot a little forward of the right.

PROPER STANCE: Stand in a normal, alert, semi-relaxed position, leaning forward slightly, with head up and eyes on target. More weight should be on the forward foot. (Figure 2)

GUN POSITION: Raise the gun so that your right eye (both eyes open) lines up with the sighting plane, and so that the comb of the stock is resting lightly against your right cheek. (Figure 3) Do not sight down the barrel as you would with a rifle: You will shoot low at a target you can't see properly. Keeping the comb against your cheek, move the gun back until the butt rests firmly against your shoulder (but not hard, if you want to avoid bruising.) Keep the stock as close to the neck as possible, for the same reason. Hold the gun firmly with both hands so that some of the recoil is taken up by the hands and arms. (Figure 4) Always follow this procedure. Do not put gun to shoulder and then cheek to stock—and never take your cheek from the stock until done firing. You'll have lots of misses, and a sore shoulder to boot.

Head, arms and shoulders should move smoothly as one unit attached to the gun. This way, your eyes will always be looking where the gun will shoot. Using this technique, a stop-motion analysis of a shot at quarry approaching from the left would look like this:



LEADING THE GAME

Only those targets moving straight at or straight away from your eye require no lead. There are very few such shots.

Learning lead for instantaneous use under all conditions takes much intelligent practice. A good rule: "Get what you think is the correct lead, double it, and fire." It works more often than not.

Always lead from the front edge of target—not from dead center. Some birds are half tail feathers.

Do not swing past target, then stop to pull trigger. Always follow through. Here are two methods that work:

- 1. Swing and overtake rapidly (snap shooting). Pull trigger as you pass through target: by the time shot leaves gun, required lead is reached. Very difficult for beginners.
- 2. Overtake target, apply calculated lead, slow swing to maintain it, and fire as soon as you're "with the lead." This is "pointing 'em out," and highly recommended for young and old alike.

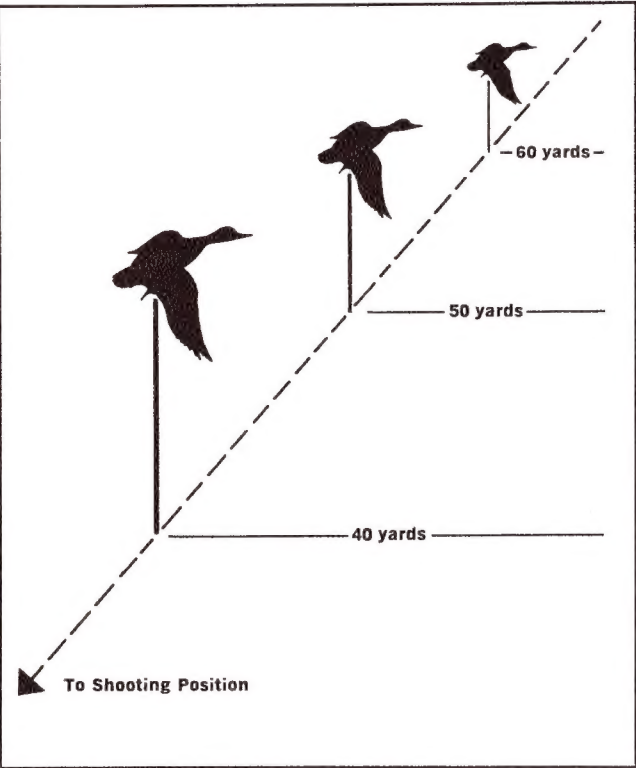
JUDGING DISTANCES

Distance judgment is a learned skill. Here's a good method: Lay out 40, 50 and 60 yard marks and erect a pole at each, with life-size cut-outs of ducks mounted at top. You'll see that 40 yards is a long shot, 50 a real long one, and 60 a humdinger. Kills beyond 60 are largely luck—misses and cripples are more the rule. The first shot in upland shooting is usually about 20 yards, the second about 25. Ducks over decoys average about 35. The moral is clear: Learn to kill cleanly at short range before "reaching out." Observe the limits of your gun, ammunition and shooting ability.

TABLE OF LEADS

Following are the leads required at various ranges to hit a bird flying at 40 miles per hour at right angles to the line of fire. These leads are computed for a 12 gauge gun using 3½ dram, 1¼ ounce load. For birds flying at increasingly smaller angles to line of fire, increasingly smaller leads are required. This, then, is merely a basic table to serve as a starting point in estimating leads.

Target Range in Yards	Lead Required in Feet
10	1.5
20	3.2
30	5.0
35	6.0
40	7.1
50	9.4
60	11.9

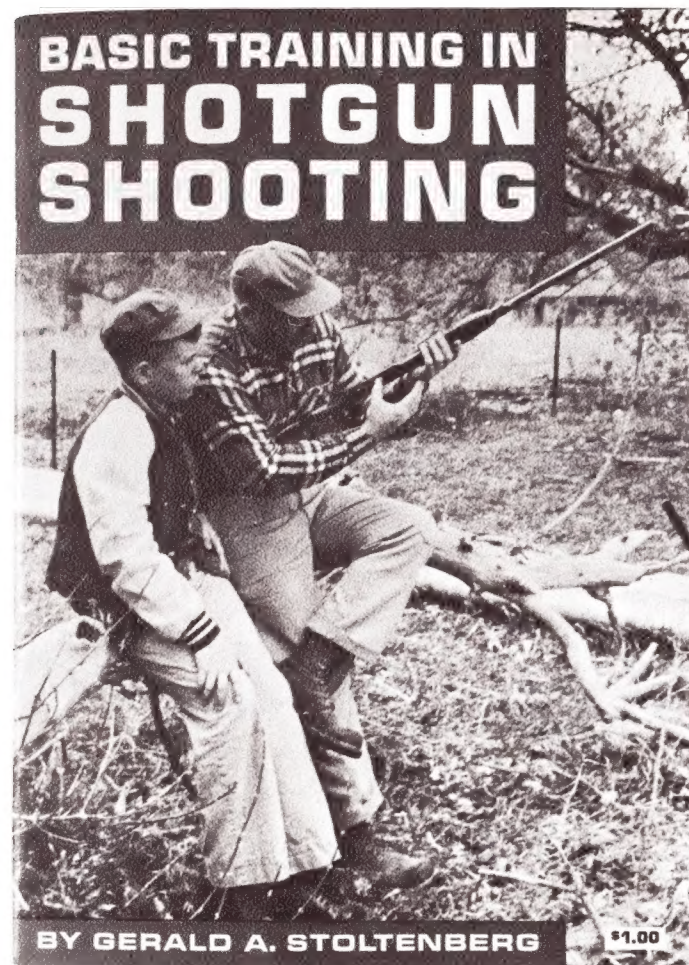


No Shooter is Too Expert to Benefit from This Book!

"BASIC TRAINING IN SHOTGUN SHOOTING" belongs on *every* shooter's bookshelf!

Here is the perfect guide for teaching a youngster or beginning shooter the complete fundamentals of shotgunning. But it's *also* loaded with plenty of tips for the "Old Pro" who wants to sharpen his technique! Written with warmth and charm by a father (himself an expert shotgunner) who taught his young son the joys and responsibilities of good shooting—with astonishingly fine results. This is a book that will be read, reread and studied in depth—by beginner and expert alike!

Yours for just \$1.00!



PHOTOS FROM THIS FINE BOOK (with Dad's comments)



"Across the kitchen table, Jerry and I have a heart-to-heart talk—shotgun vs toy gun."



"Jerry examines the pattern board. Range estimation and knowledge of loads are vital to effective shotgun shooting."



"Proof of the pudding! Jerry (age 14) had his biggest day . . . 4 ringnecks and 2 mallards in less than 2 hours" (Nebraska limits, 1962).

If you want similar results for your beginning shooter—or for yourself by all means read
"BASIC TRAINING IN SHOTGUN SHOOTING," by Gerald A. Stoltenberg.
Send \$1.00 to: Ithaca Gun Co., (Canada) Ltd., Dunnville, Ontario.

Why ITHACA has been "The Expert's Choice Since 1880"

An Ithaca gun is not the product of automation. It is the product of a tradition in craftsmanship. Behind its excellence lies the accumulated knowledge of generations of master craftsmen—plus an eagle-eyed awareness of every innovation in firearms technology, and the responsible utilization of those which match the Ithaca tradition.

Is the bluing of an Ithaca barrel a little more 'dense'? Is the finish of stock and forend a little deeper (and a lot more lasting)? Does the receiver have masterful touches that give it a custom look? These are distinguishing signs of excellence that appear on the exterior, where the eye can see.

But the man who takes down his Ithaca gun for maintenance is delighted to find that the same meticulous workmanship has been expended on all its *interior* parts, too. The burr-free edges, the ice-slick polish, the perfect fit of each and every component: All contribute to the swift, oil-smooth action, the lasting dependability, the continuing *predictability* of Ithaca performance.

All—taken together as a sum of many smaller superiorities—add up to a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.

And all explain why Ithaca has been "The Expert's Choice Since 1880."



With characteristic attention to fine details, this craftsman makes certain of precision fitting of an Ithaca action.

ITHACA

Where North America's Leading Gunsmiths Still Practice Their Craftsmanship

As one long-time shooter wrote: "The Ithaca Gun is about the only one left in North America that is still the work of the craftsman instead of a mechanical robot." This is how Ithaca Guns have earned their reputation as—The Expert's Choice . . . Since 1880.



The start of the Ithaca Gun Company took place back in 1880 on land purchased from Ezra Cornell (founder of Cornell University), who had built this little wooden building as a mill.



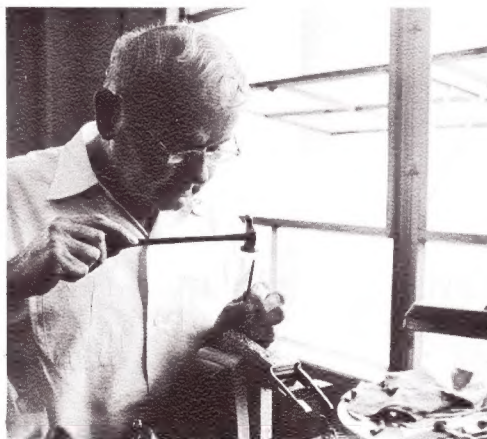
Here's where Ithaca Guns are built today, at the same site on the steep gorge of Fall Creek in Ithaca. Here the true craftsman holds his place, ignoring the rush and hustle of the outside world.



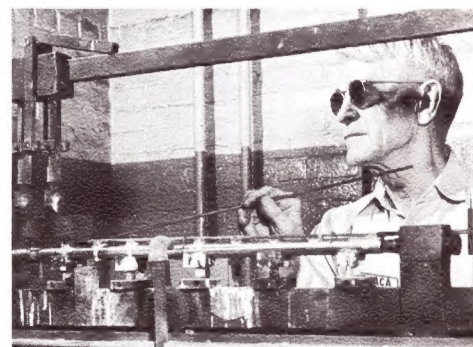
The future of Ithaca Gun Company now rests in the hands of President Sheldon Smith, who, with his brother Charles, shares the task of maintaining Ithaca's reputation for quality.



Charles Smith, Ithaca VP of Manufacturing, has spent years studying the best ways of making the best guns. He has plenty of reasons to be proud of the gunsmiths who work at Ithaca.



Bill McGraw is Ithaca's Master Engraver. Here he works on an Ithaca \$3000.00 Grade Trap Gun. He will spend six to eight weeks on just one gun. Like all Ithaca craftsmanship, it can't be hurried.



Here's another Ithaca specialist at work installing a ventilated rib on an Ithaca barrel. A touch here and a tap there . . . skillful fingers in a constant effort to create a masterpiece.



Skillful fingers again. Careful, painstaking handwork, hours of it, goes into checking on Ithaca high-grade guns.



About the only place in the whole Ithaca factory that's noisy. Here in the test range, each and every Ithaca gun receives a thorough check-out and the last of the over 1,000 operations and inspections.



Not the Devil's cauldron but the bluing tanks where the rich, lustrous finishes are imparted to Ithaca Gun metal parts.